

Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Advisory Panel

Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and Stoke Potteries Museum are seeking expressions of interest from Conservation Professionals, Scientists, Archaeologists and related professionals to join the Hoard Conservation Advisory Panel.

The Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard represents the most significant archaeological find ever uncovered in the West Midlands region. Since the public disclosure of the find in September 2009 there has been an unprecedented level of public and media interest in the Hoard. There is also the academic communities who have specific and significant expectations in relation to establishing a research agenda around the Hoard. Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent are the Acquiring Partners and understand the need to address the varied agendas and expectations that have arisen since the discovery and acquisition of the Hoard.

The first and most important step is to conserve the Hoard so that it is materially stable thereby allowing the effective investigation of the material by scientists, archaeologists and historians. This call is part of the Acquiring Partners strategy to meet their responsibilities in this area and how they will ensure that the democratic and open approach that has typified the handling of this most important of finds is maintained throughout the process of conservation.

What is in the Hoard?

Following initial assessment the Hoard was found to contain 97 sword pommels (25% of the sword pommels are of a cloisonné design with 60% constructed from fine filigree), 354 sword and dagger hilt fittings, 9 pyramids, 4 pommel rings, 2 buttons and a large amount of fragments. The Hoard totals 5.094 kilos of gold, 1.442 kilos of silver including approximately 3,500 cloisonné garnets (51 loose) and a large number of fragments some of which are consistent with those found on helmets of this period. In total the Hoard contains 3,490 pieces/fragments and has no comparator in terms of content and quantity in the UK or mainland Europe.

Conservation Advisory Panel (CAP)

The panel is made up of a core team of three formed from representatives for Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Stoke Potteries Museum and Art Gallery and the British Museum. The CAP will be chaired by the Hoard Conservation Project Manager (Deborah Cane). Seven further specialists areas including metallurgy, archaeology, conservation, heritage science are being sought to create a panel of up to ten advisors.

The CAP team will offer advice and support to the Hoard Conservation Team on questions raised during conservation treatments and conservation options and research requests raised by the Research Advisory panel.

The CAP team will:

- Meet four times a year in Birmingham (occasionally Stoke and London)
- Participate in discussions via emails

- Particular specialists from the group may be requested to attend additional days relating to their specialism.

Time Scale

- The conservation project has funding for two years and it is hoped that the conservation team will be in place by September 2010.
- It is hoped to have the full CAP team in place by the end of August 2010
- It is hoped that a meeting to review the collection and suggested conservation strategies will be set for September/October 2010
- There will be four meetings from Sept 2010- Sept 2011 and four meetings from Sept 2011- Sept 2012.
- The four meetings a year will be approximately every two/three months

Funding

- There is funding up to £100 per person, per visit.

Filming

- National Geographic are producing three programmes on the Hoard, the second of which will focus on the conservation and research of the Hoard. The CAP team may be asked to participate in filming.

Application

If you are interested in joining the CAP team please submit a maximum of two sides of A4 containing your contact details, specialist area and what experience and support you can offer to the CAP team.

The Deadline: 30th of June 2010

Selection

The successful applicant will be selected by the core CAP team and will be informed by the end of July 2010.

Please submit your application to:

Deborah Cane
Hoard Conservation Project Leader
Deborah_Cane@birmingham.gov.uk

Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project

Conservation Advisory Panel Form

The application should be no longer than two sides of A4

Name	
Contact details	
Specialist area	
Brief outline of experience	
Why you would like to participate	
What you can bring to the project	
What you hope to gain from the project	
Please return this form and one reference to	<p>Deborah Cane Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project Collections Care & Conservation Department Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3DH UK</p> <p>0121 303 9080</p>